

## **West Farm**

### **Sioux Falls, South Dakota**

The West Farm is a juvenile transitional care facility located approximately seven miles west of Sioux Falls for boys age 14-17 who have completed correctional placement and are transitioning back into the community to work, post-secondary education, independent living or the military.

The West Farm was originally a working farm for the South Dakota State Penitentiary. The prison farming operation ceased in 1997. The state converted the buildings into a juvenile transitional care facility that opened in 1998.



#### **Living area at West Farm.**

Volunteers of America, Dakotas, a nonprofit organization based in Sioux Falls, operates the program as a Title XIX (Medicaid) licensed Group Care Center through a contract with the state of South Dakota.

Volunteers of America focuses on providing:

- Residential services with a home-like environment with 24-hour supervision, guidance and transportation services.
- Treatment services to address issues such as education, mental health, behavior, employment, chemical dependency and vocational.
- Case management services, individual, group and family counseling.
- A motivational point system to assist the youth in making positive steps toward mastering the identified treatment goals.
- The Social Learning Theory to guide the process, while also addressing appropriate social skills.
- On-site Psychiatric, psychological, chemical dependency and medical services provided by a pediatrician and registered nurse
- Education services where the youth attend school within the Sioux Falls Public or West Central School District. GED services are also available through the Career Learning Center at Volunteers of America.

The buildings at the West Farm are state property, but through contract arrangements with VOA-Dakotas, maintenance of the facility is a shared responsibility.